

# **OROVILLE FACILITIES RELICENSING**

## **ISSUE SHEET DEFINITIONS**

### **ISSUE SHEET**

Issue Sheets are a tool to help relicensing participants objectively discuss issue statements and how they relate to the relicensing process. The issue sheets are an intermediate step in the development of study plans. In some cases, the relicensing participants may determine that even though an issue is related to relicensing, a study is not warranted because existing information is available to address the issue. The issue sheet can then be used to document that the need to design a study for the issue has been resolved or brought to closure. In other cases, the development of the issue sheet may indicate that the project does not have a direct, indirect, or cumulative impact on the particular resource issue identified in the issue statement. In such cases, the issue may be eliminated from further consideration or the issue proponent may elect to raise the issue during the settlement process.

Each Issue Sheet contains five sections in addition to the Issue Statement: (1) Resource Goals, (2) Scope, (3) Existing Information, (4) Information Needed, and (5) Level of Analysis. Each of these items is described below.

### **RESOURCE GOALS**

Resource goals are an individual's, group's, or resource agency's broad statement of intent, direction, and purpose. From a resource agency's perspective, resource goals are usually found in legislation, regulations and agency policy. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's regulations (18 CFR 16.9) require resource agencies to identify their resource goals as part of study requests. Specifying resource goals for a particular study helps to provide focus for the study. As explained below, more detailed "resource objectives" are not identified until later in the relicensing process.

Resource objectives, on the other hand, are clear statements that describe desired conditions for a specific area, activity, or species. They tell you where you are going and serve as criteria for deciding what management activities are needed. They also are essential to monitoring progress and evaluating the success of plan implementation. Examples of objectives might include specific fish habitat improvements, development of a cold water or warm water fishery, and provision for a specific temperature regime, and provision for boat ramps. Resource objectives are usually identified later in a relicensing process and are not required as part of the Issue Sheet Resource Goals.

Resource goals can be in conflict with one another since they are the goals of a particular group and not necessarily the goals of all relicensing participants (e.g., restoring anadromous fish habitat could be in conflict with the goal of power generation). However, if resource goals are broad statements as defined above, there may be ways to attain multiple goals without them being in conflict with one another.

Resource goals should be considered when the study plans are being developed to ensure that information will be available to assess alternative ways of meeting those goals, assuming of course that they relate to the relicensing process.

## **SCOPE**

The concept of scope relates to both the geographic and temporal scope of an issue.

### **Geographic Scope**

The geographic scope for an issue is the area potentially affected by the Oroville Facilities, with consideration being given to the level of importance of the issue and the potential level of impact. The geographic scope normally includes the FERC project boundary plus any area outside the project boundary for which the particular resource may be affected by the licensed project or its operation.

### **Temporal Scope**

The temporal scope of an issue refers to the study period for which issue impacts are investigated. (It is not the period during which the studies will be conducted.) Since new licenses are issued for a 30 to 50 year period, the temporal scope needs to extend that far into the future. However, only reasonably foreseeable actions need to be included in any analysis.

## **EXISTING INFORMATION**

The existing information is a summary of the information currently available to address the issue statement. When the study plan is developed, the existing information may provide background to help frame the study. In some cases the existing information may be sufficient to address the issue.

## **INFORMATION NEEDED**

This section of an issue sheet provides the foundation for the development of the study plan. It should include the identification of the data that will be needed to analyze the issue, and how that analysis will be related to the project or its operation.

## **LEVEL OF ANALYSIS**

This section of an issue sheet provides insight into the level of treatment that the issue will receive. It is a summary of the information needed section. Typically, the level of analysis ranges from a desktop study of existing information to assess the effect of the project on a particular resource, to a field data collection effort that can vary from limited to intensive, to a modeling effort, to a comprehensive evaluation.